



*The Pearl of the Panhandle*

# Carrabelle Area Chamber of Commerce

105 St. James Avenue (Hwy 98), PO Box DD Carrabelle, FL 32322  
(850) 697-2585  
[chamber@nettally.com](mailto:chamber@nettally.com)

Join today!/ Like us on Facebook [www.carrabelle.org](http://www.carrabelle.org) (now mobile friendly!)



Friday, Jan. 8, 2016

## January

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> INCONCERT-The Forward Quartet** 7:30 pm Rio Carrabelle \$ 15 per person [www.inconcertapalachicola.org](http://www.inconcertapalachicola.org)

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Sausage, Gravey & Biscuits** (with coffee, tea, or orange juice) 8:30 am-11 am at Chillas Hall, Lanark Village Donation \$ 6 at Door (850) 408-1308 or (850) 697-4021

**Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> Book Social-Author Ginnah Howard "I'm Sick of this Already-At Risk Learning in a High School Class"** 5:30 pm Carrabelle Branch Library. Light Refreshments will be served (850) 697-2366

**Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Submarine Canyons: Pathways to the FSU Coastal & Marine Lab Conservation Lecture**, 7 pm FSUCML Auditorium, St. Teresa, Reception follows the presentation (850) 697-4120 or [www.mariwwwnelab.fsu.edu](http://www.mariwwwnelab.fsu.edu)

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> INCONCERT- Adam Hendley Quartet** 7:30 pm Rio Carrabelle \$ 15 per person [www.inconcertapalachicola.org](http://www.inconcertapalachicola.org)

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> & Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Apalachicola Oyster Cook-Off-A fundraiser for the Apalachicola Volunteer Fire Department** Riverfront park downtown Apalachicola [www.oystercookoff.com](http://www.oystercookoff.com)

**Mon 18<sup>th</sup> & Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration** Mon-11 am Apalachicola National Guard Armory. Email [dolorescroom64@yahoo.com](mailto:dolorescroom64@yahoo.com) for more info

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Carrabelle Chamber Board of Directors Meeting- Noon - Carrabelle Library**

**Fri 22nd INCONCERT- Carlos Odria Trio** 7:30 pm Rio Carrabelle \$ 15 per person [www.inconcertapalachicola.org](http://www.inconcertapalachicola.org)

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Art in Nature: The Art of Observing and Drawing Marine Specimens** FSU Coastal & Marine Lab Workshop, St. Teresa, 10 am-1 pm; \$ 80 person, \$ 75 student (850) 697-4120 or [www.mariwwwnelab.fsu.edu](http://www.mariwwwnelab.fsu.edu)

**Fri 29th INCONCERT- Jazz Copeland** 7:30 pm Rio Carrabelle \$ 15 per person [www.inconcertapalachicola.org](http://www.inconcertapalachicola.org)

**Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Soup, Sandwich & Dessert** 11 am-1 pm at Chillas Hall, **Sat 30th Camp Gordon Johnson WWII Museum Movie**, 10:15 am FREE popcorn!

**Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Fourth Saturday Paddle** Apalachicola Riverkeeper (850) 653-8936 or email [georgiaackerman@earthlink.net](mailto:georgiaackerman@earthlink.net)

See our website [www.carrabelle.org](http://www.carrabelle.org) under "Things to Do" Entertainment/Events for More info

Events Further afield:

Listen to **WOYS 100.5 FM Oyster Radio** Or go to [www.oysterradio.com](http://www.oysterradio.com) or [www.forgottencoastline.com](http://www.forgottencoastline.com)



### 2015: A Year of Changes at YOUR Chamber!

What a great first year I've had as your new Executive Director and I am looking forward to an even better 2016! **Areas of focus last year:**

- **Marketing** & up-dating our technology to publicize YOUR business, YOUR news, services or products & area events to the community & on the web
  - Constant revision of **Website** to keep it current & relevant-please review your listing, I can revise the text or add photos anytime-154,656 visitors viewed it last year
  - Bi-weekly **Newsletter** was started in February...Members, please continue to submit articles and notices of YOUR news & special events
  - Facebook** "likes" have increased to 1,602 from 1,417 since May 4, 2015-I have "liked" member pages & am re-posting YOUR postings onto the Chamber's Facebook page
  - Increased our **media coverage**
  - Increased **Referrals** of prospective customers or visitors to Chamber Members
  - Snapshot Tour Brochure**-Sights & Landmarks along Carrabelle's Scenic Coast was created with A LOT of help ! (My first brochure)
- **Increased our Membership base**-55 renewals from 2014...Current membership of 105 !
- **New look** to the Chamber office & Visitor center with more information & brochures available to anyone visiting the office. New signage for the Visitor Center funded by the FCTDC.
- **Holiday on the Harbor & Boat Parade**, our only fundraising event of 2015, was a huge success, not only as a community event, but bringing in a lot of attendees that resulted in a lot of revenue for area businesses....and a whole lot of fun!

I look forward to serving the Membership & representing your best interests in the community in 2016. Renew, join, & refer a friend. Thank you for your trust, confidence, and constructive feedback!

**Executive Board**

President-**Cher Novaria**/At Your Service Concierge  
Vice President- **Lewis Christie**/Christie’s Cottage Living  
Secretary-**Dr. Lois Mendez Catlin**-Phoenix Family Health Care Center  
Treasurer- **Paul Marxsen**/Marxsen Accounting

**Directors**

**Sheila Hauser**/Century 21 Collins Realty  
**Tonia Chisholm**/FC Public Library-Carrabelle  
**Skip Frink**/Old Carrabelle Hotel  
**Bo May**/Rio Carrabelle  
**Pamela McCreery**/The Beachtrader

**Executive Director**-Lisa Munson

**Representatives**

**Chester Reese**-FC Tourist Development Council  
**David Butler**-Big Bend Scenic Byway Board



**Camp Gordon Johnston Association: Just how bad was your 2015?**

I was asked to write an “End of the Year Review” for the Camp Gordon Johnston Association newsletter. This was going to be a long drawn out chore, which I was sure not going to enjoy writing. The first things that come to mind was “This ain’t going to be pretty”.

I soon realized our only disappointment was the Governor’s veto for funding, and the loss of one of the founding members of the Museum, Mr. Sidney Winchester, who lost his battle with cancer.

Then the positive events started to come to mind. Our BOD increased by 3 very qualified members, donations are still coming in , our CGJ Days Reunion was a success, we were asked to participate in the “Victory in Florida” event held at SGI State Park, and we found new organizations to partner with. Our Veterans Day Golf Tournament & Silent Auction went off without any problems, the Veterans Day display At Wakulla Springs State Park was well received.

As for funding, we have sent a budget request to Rep. Halsey Beshears & Senator Bill Montford, we received a Historical Marker, with a grant from the Dept. of State, The FCTDC awarded us funding to start our new complex, our half scale Higgins Boat was finished & is on display at the museum, a member of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association is having a Hughes OH-6 Cayuse (Loach) Light Observation/Attack Helicopter rebuilt & will give it to the museum on a long term loan, our visitor numbers were up from last year to a tad over 4,000 visitors & we are still open for business.

2015 was a pretty good year. Mike Horvath, Exec. Sec, CGJ-excerpt from the Special Amphibian-Jan. 2015 (for the full Newsletter text, please download from our website-Things to do/CGJ)

Visitors at our Visitor’s Center Carrabelle Brochures Sent

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>% Inc</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>% Inc</u>
Jan	51	106	208	30	75	250
Feb	111	167	150	27	63	233
Mar	163	171	105	25	74	296
Apr	118	178	151	41	47	115
May	66	137	208	26	79	304
Jun	64	153	239	66	90	136
Jul	80	133	166	36	66	183
Aug	52	125	240	36	70	194
Sept	56	109	195	21	37	176
Oct	76	152	200	22	25	114
Nov	79	113	143	19	31	163
Dec	<u>62</u>	<u>142</u>	229	<u>32</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>(81)</u>
Totals	978	1,686	172	381	683	179

Total Carrabelle .org Web Website Visitors: Jan 1-Dec 27:154,656  
Total New Carrabelle Area Chamber Members 2015: 50  
(Includes return Memberships of pre-2014 Members)



**From the Crooked River Lighthouse:**

**2016 PANHANDLE LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE CANCELLED**

We were looking forward to finally having another Lighthouse Challenge, but I am sorry to say it has been cancelled this year. Putting on a big event like the Challenge is very expensive & requires a great deal of work from our volunteers. Funding sources that were available in the past are no longer there & some of our lighthouse organizations are having to focus on maintenance issues & renovations. Also, we are all in dire need of volunteers. It is especially difficult for those of us in rural areas to keep enough dedicated volunteers to keep our lighthouses & museums open & do the needed cleaning & maintenance chores –not to mention putting on special events. Please continue to do what you can to support your local lighthouse & encourage your friends & family to do the same. Even volunteering one day a month can be a great help. Without your help & encouragement, we would not be able to keep the lights burning. Thank you for all your support.



Thanks to the generous donations we received this year from dedicated supporters like you, Apalachicola Riverkeeper and our partner coalitions were able to:

- Prevent the threat of coal ash pollution in the Apalachicola River
- Initiate an assessment to identify potential projects to recover the ecological functions of the river & floodplain
- Remove over 15,000 pounds of garbage from the shores & waters of the Apalachicola Bay
- Produce a Sustainable Water Management Plan for the Apalachicola River & Bay
- Protect Apalachicola Bay by lifting the veil of secrecy on a decade-long oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico
- Continue Outreach; Education; River, Floodplain & Bay Monitoring  
Led monthly guided paddling trips  
Educated the public on the threat sea level rise poses to the coastal communities of the Apalachicola River Basin  
Partnered to host informative shorebird walks  
Hosted conservation talks with middle & elementary school youth  
Sampled side streams & the main river channel for water quality, habitat & geomorphic impacts  
Opposed drilling for oil & fracking in FL region of the Gulf of Mexico & Apalachicola watershed

Please help us recover the Apalachicola River & save the remarkable Apalachicola Bay by supporting our continued work in 2016. Thank you & best wishes for a joyous New Year!